

On The Threshold of a New Era

History will remember 1990 as a year of nearly revolutionary change, a year when the political realities of the Cold War era disintegrated almost overnight and were replaced with a new political and economic order. The year 1990 is the threshold for entry into a new era of great opportunities and prospects. On a personal, institutional, and international level, it is a good time to initiate new ventures and to explore new directions and new approaches to old problems.

The year 1990 is also an important threshold for *The Journal of Investigative Dermatology*. The five-year contract recently signed with Elsevier Science Publishing Company provides unprecedented benefits for the journal and its sponsoring societies, the Society for Investigative Dermatology and the European Society for Dermatological Research. Beginning in 1991, we will for the first time have sufficient guaranteed editorial pages to publish all of the papers submitted that meet the standards of the *JID*. Because of the strength of the journal and the new arrangement with Elsevier, and with the support of funds from the Endowment established during the Fiftieth Anniversary Year of the journal, we will be able to provide special supplemental issues and other features in addition to primary research papers.

With the prospect of a larger and more diverse journal, the immediate goal of the Editorial Board is to make the *JID* more accessible to all aspects of research in cutaneous biology. Techniques in molecular and cellular biology are being applied with great impact to questions in cutaneous biology and to the study of skin diseases. We want to assure that such papers submitted to the *JID* receive rapid review by acknowledged experts so that the whole spectrum of research related to the skin and skin disease is represented in this journal. The Editorial Board is being expanded to include new Associate Editors expert in the disciplines of keratinocyte biology, immunology, extracellular matrix, genetics, pharmacology, biophysical properties, and virology. We will especially strive for greater participation of the Ph.D. basic scientist in our new Editorial Board configuration, reflecting the expanded participation of such investigators in cutaneous biology. At the same time, we are interested in maintaining our accessibility for research applied directly to dermatologic diseases, and have added a dermatopathologist to consider the research submitted by this very active group of investigators.

A crucial factor in the attraction of high-impact research to the *JID* is the ability to provide rapid review and publication of articles on the cutting edge of modern investigation. We will provide a special "fast track" for rapid review and publication for ten percent of our submissions. These papers will receive expedited handling in the Editorial Office and at the publisher. Our goal for such selected **High Impact** manuscripts is four months from when a submitted

paper is received in our office until it appears in an issue of the journal, excluding any time necessary for revision. As indicated in the new Information for Authors, we invite authors to request that appropriate submissions be designated **High Impact** papers, but the assignment of this fast track category will be decided by the Editorial Board.

We will also institute changes in the review process to diminish the time in review of regular *JID* submissions. Please refer to the new author instructions for details related to submission of papers. **Authors will be asked to submit four copies of manuscripts plus illustrations for all types of submission.** New approaches will be employed in the Editorial Office to eliminate late reviews. Although the use of modern telecommunications will help to diminish time in review, the most important delay in our process is due to overdue review or reviewers who return manuscripts unreviewed after extended delays. I implore the reviewers for this journal to perform their requested reviews in a timely manner with appropriate consideration for the authors.

The **Rapid Communication** will remain a mechanism for publication of short, succinct contributions that demonstrate novel techniques or findings, also published in an expedited manner.

Another important way to attract attention to research in cutaneous biology and to showcase such work in the *JID* is the Review Article. As noted in the Information for Authors, we will accept submission of review articles from the membership for peer review. We will also solicit such articles from scientists across the whole spectrum of biology, including those not closely associated with cutaneous biology. Instructions on submission of **Review Articles** can be found in the new Information for Authors.

The Editorial Board will continue to organize special supplemental issues and mini-supplements within regular issues to focus attention on rapidly progressing areas of research, to identify and describe new techniques being applied to research in cutaneous biology, and to report on symposia demonstrating the application of basic laboratory techniques to the study of the mechanisms and treatment of skin diseases.

Authors submitting papers to the *JID* are now able to select High Impact, Rapid Communication, or Review Article in addition to a regular submission. Such submissions will be considered by an Editorial Board with broader expertise in clinical and basic research. The Editorial Process will be streamlined and, with the help of reviewers and authors, time in review will be decreased. For High Impact papers, rapid publication is guaranteed.

There is great promise in the new era which the *JID* now enters. We seek broader representation of basic and clinical scientists in all disciplines of cutaneous biology, and will continue to use a broadly based international reviewer base to provide thorough and timely peer review.